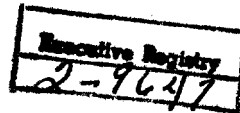


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SECURITY INFORMATION



21 MAY 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Reply to Recommendations by Working Group of
U. S. Board on Geographic Names

REFERENCE: Paper entitled "Proposed Solutions of Geographic
Names Problems Raised by Joint-Specifications,
Maps and Charts"

I. Problem

Answer to informal request from the Executive Secretary,
U. S. Board on Geographic Names, for CIA concurrence on the
reference paper.

II. Facts Bearing on the Problem

The inter-departmental U. S. Board on Geographic Names determines name policy and procedures, renders name decisions and approves official standard names for the purpose of standardizing geographic name usage. By law, U. S. Government agencies are to follow the geographic name policies and procedures issued by the Board. In practice it is intended that agencies also use the approved official standard names. The CIA attempts to conform with this approach toward standardized usage, particularly in the publication of National Intelligence Surveys. The determination of name policy, the establishment of official standard names for gazetteers and the editing of manuscript to assure standardized geographic name usage required for NIS publication has been obtained from the Board through transfer of funds during the past several years. This year the Air Force also transferred funds to DOW to obtain the services of the staff in providing geographic names for some of its aeronautical charts. The Army has a large geographic name research group and has not felt obligated to have the names it uses approved by DOW as official standard names, although it has utilized approved names when operational requirements permitted.

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Joint specifications for the construction of ground-air support maps and charts at the scale of 1:250,000 provided that geographic names should be identical on the air charts and the topographic maps. The Photo and Survey Section, JIS, recognized the difficulties inherent in the divergent attitudes assumed by the Air Force and Army in regard to the work of the BGN and its staff. It requested that the BGN representatives for these two Departments clarify the situation and provide an interim solution. A working group was established on which CIA was represented because of its major support of the BGN activity. The reference paper is the result of several meetings of the working group. It is intended that this paper will be forwarded to the Photo and Survey Section, JIS, if general concurrence of its contents is obtained from the interested agencies and if the Executive Committee of the Board is willing to approve its transmission.

III. Discussion

There is nothing radically new or different from current procedures in the reference paper. The Air Force representative on the Board is particularly desirous of having this paper favorably received by the interested agencies and transmitted to the Photo and Survey Section, JIS, in order that greater cooperation can be obtained from the Army in utilizing the Board and its staff for the purpose for which it was established by law. The Air Targets Division, AFOTD, has indicated that it is having serious difficulty in regard to geographic names and desires to obtain uniformity in usage through closer cooperation with the Board. Previous discussions indicate that CIA would not support a request for direct appropriations to the Board at this time.

IV. Conclusion

In so far as its own interests and financial obligations are not adversely affected, it is believed that the CIA should favor any improvement in procedures that will tend to provide greater uniformity in the usage of geographic names in the intelligence and operational fields.

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V. Recommended Action

Approval is requested for the designated OIA representative on the Board to sign the enclosed letter and, as Chairman of the Board's Executive Committee, to concur in an action to forward the reference paper to the Photo and Survey Section, IBP.

/s/
ROBERT ARMIT, Jr.
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

25X1A

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief, O/O

61 James O Reper
Assistant Director, Intelligence Coordination

61 ER Saunders
Comptroller

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/s/ [REDACTED]
Asst General Counsel

Approved (disapproved), exceptions, if any.

OHA/D/O:OB/uth:mak
10 May 1952

SIGNED
Becker
Deputy Director, Intelligence

Distribution:

0 & 3 - Addressee
2 - AD/RE
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